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# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4, NO. 3, WINTER, 1986

## PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT OPENS

*The Palliative Care Unit opened on January 7, 1986 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the Director, James H. Stephens. This unit, located on C-7, provides 24-hour care to the terminally ill patient and his family. Assisting Mr. Stephens is Celena Olinesmith, PCU Coordinator. Also in attendance were (from left) Anita Lord, R.N., Assistant Chief, Nursing Service; Julie A. Kish, M.D., Medical Chief of PCU; and Dorothy Griffith, R.N., Head Nurse, Ward C7.*

## NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS WEEK

A hospital stay can be a lonely, anxiety-filled period in anyone's life. Each year the Allen Park VA Medical Center volunteers and employees make a special effort to ease the experience.

As part of this year's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, February 9-15, the Allen Park VA Medical Center sponsored a week of various events for its patients. The activities included a visit by 30 pupils from Lindemann Elementary School in Allen Park who presented the patients with handmade valentine cards. Special appearances were made by the mayors of the cities of Allen Park and Dearborn and Miss Allen Park and Miss Dearborn.

The volunteers, community people and organizations participating in this year's program helped to let our veterans know they are never alone.

*Anthony Klumpp, a resident on our Nursing Home Care Unit, accepts valentines from Dave Medley and Kevin Schaff, 5th graders at Lindemann Elementary School in Allen Park.*

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# NOTES OF INTEREST

Chaplain Meredith Hunt was one of the first individuals in the state to be awarded the State of Michigan Certified Addiction Counselor credential which was presented at an awards ceremony on January 31, 1986.

Ken Hashimoto, M.D., Dermatology Service, was recently elected president of the Society of Dermatopathology at the society's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Peter J. Aronson, M.D., Dermatology Service, has been awarded a $5,000 research grant from the Dermatology Foundation.

David Benac, Diagnostic Radiology Service, and Vicki Hathcox, Fiscal Service, were recently appointed as EEO Counselors.

The following doctors have earned VA Central Office Research Funding Awards: Merit Awards: Mark Edelstein, M.D., Surendra Kelwala, M.D., A.S. Prasad, M.D., Leonard B. Savoy, M.D. Research Advisory Group (RAG) Awards: James Felicetta, M.D., James Sunstrum, M.D.

Roger M. Morrell, M.D., Neurology Service, had a paper published in the International Journal for XII International Symposium of the Fulton Society entitled "Immunological Effects of Brain Mechanisms of Emotion."

Narayan P. Verma, M.D., Neurology Service, had a paper accepted for publication entitled, "EEG findings in unmedicated, neurologically and intellectually intact Tourette Syndrome patients" which was co-authored by A. Syrigon-Papavasiliou and P.A. LeWitt.

Sheldon Kapen, M.D., Neurology Service, was co-author of a paper accepted for publication entitled, "Cholinergic enhancement and REM sleep in the aged: Lecithin does not reproduce physostigmine effect." Co-authors were P.D. Fleming and D.A. Drachman.

Joan Brown, M.S., R.D., Dietetic Service, was elected president of the Michigan Dietetic Association. Mrs. Brown was granted the Michigan Dietetic Association Award for distinguished professional service. She is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Medical Dietetics Program of Wayne State University and the Dietetic Technician Program of Mercy College of Detroit.

# CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Congressman Sander Levin, 17th District, Michigan, visited the VA Medical Center, Allen Park on February 18, 1986 for the purpose of gathering information on how the President's proposed FY 1987 Budget will "impact the individual veterans, their families, VA programs, and the planned expansion of VA medical facilties".

Representative Levin and members of his staff met with the Director, VA Medical Center, Allen Park, staff of the medical center, and representatives of various veterans' organizations.

The format of the meeting consisted of a brief presentation by the Director, James H. Stephens, followed by open discussion concerning the perceived impact of the budget on services to veterans.

*(From left) Anna Greene, Management Assistant; James H. Stephens, Director; Dr. Albert Stein, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff; Congressman Sander Levin.*

*(From left) Dr. Albert Stein, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff; James H. Stephens, Director; Karen White, Executive Secretary to Congressman Levin: Congressman Sander Levin.*

*(From left) Karen White, Executive Secretary to Congressman Levin; Congressman Sander Levin; James H. Stephens, Director; Dr. Albert Stein, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff.*

*A very inspiring observance of the first National Holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday celebration was held recently in the Medical Center Auditorium. This program was sponsored by the Federal Women's Program and featured as guest speakers, Mr. James H. Stephens, Director, and Lloyd Jacobs, M.D., Chief of Staff.*

*Mrs. Fay Detvay, Representative, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, presents a check for the purchase of "Serenity Mugs" to Wayne Snyder, Chief, Voluntary Service. The "Serenity Mugs" will be presented to veterans completing the 40-day Alcohol Dependence Treatment Program on B-10 in a special ceremony each week.*

*Wayne C. Snyder, Chief, Voluntary Service, accepts check from Mrs. Rose Solak, president, AMVETS Aux. Post #45, and Mr. Robert Bell, AMVETS VAVS Representative. The donation from the AMVETS National Service will help provide wheelchairs for the Medical Center.*

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The month of February was a time to reflect on the works of blacks who had a strong hand in the shaping of this country.

The theme for the month was, "The Afro-American Experience — International Connection."

The VA Allen Park "Kick-off" ceremony began with the dynamic Dr. Frederick Sampson, Minister of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, as guest speaker, and featured songtress, Kim Weston. Also appearing was the Northwestern High School Choir of Detroit, Michigan.

The Afro-American flag was presented to Mrs. Dorothy Drake, the chairperson for Black History Month, by its designer, Mr. Frank Weston.

Other activities for the month included an afternoon musical, film showings, soul food tasting, and displays of Afro-American artifacts.

*Keynote speaker, Frank Weston, designer of the Afro-American flag, flanked by Catherine Wynn, Food Services Foreman, and Dorothy Drake, Administrative Officer, Nursing Service, and chairperson of the event.*

*Frank Weston displays his newly designed Afro-American flag.*

# FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM

During FY 1986 the **Federal Women's Program** began to fulfill their objectives with the presentation on December 12, 1985 of a most successful one day workshop entitled, "Stress in Our Lives: Child, Spouse, and Elder Abuse, Health and Rape." The keynote speaker was Lynn Lewis, Ph.D. This program was one of the ongoing substantive presentations planned for FY 1986.

*Special guest, Dr. Frederick G. Sampson, Minister of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, receives a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution from Acting Associate Director, William Heisler.*

The Allen Park Medical Center NEWSLETTER is published monthly for employees, patients and volunteers.

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